

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 12, 14, and 15-23 are currently pending. Claims 1-11, 13, and 24-27 have been canceled without prejudice; and Claims 12, 14, 15, 19, 22, and 23 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 10, 11, 13, 25, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0086486 to Yacobi (hereinafter “the ‘486 application”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,068,823 to Malik et al. (hereinafter “the ‘823 patent”); and Claims 12 and 14-22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 10, 11, 13, 25, and 27 are rendered moot by the present cancellation of those claims. Further, Applicants note that Claims 12, 14, 15, 19, 22, and 23 have been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims, based on the indicated allowability of those claims in the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants note that Claim 10 was slightly amended to clarify that the extraction unit is configured to extract a plurality of embedded codes including ranks from the illegal copies, each of the ranks being uniquely numbered among each of the embedded codes. In particular, the words “symbol sequences” were replaced with the words “embedded codes” to clarify and to correct an informality in Claim 10. Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment does not affect the scope of the claims and that the claims indicated allowable in the outstanding Office Action should still be allowable.

Further, Applicants note that the withdrawn claims have been canceled.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

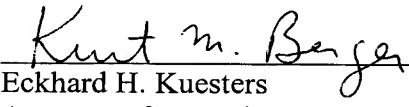
Respectfully submitted,

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